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## Letter from W.B. Starke to Thomas G. Clemson, 1883 February

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Col. T. G. Clemson

Beaufort S. C.

Beech, W. S. C.

13<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1883

Dear Sir

Yours of 3<sup>rd</sup> inst gave me much pleasure. I have read the 1<sup>st</sup> vol. of Mr Calhoun's works over again; the volume containing his Synthesis of government and his analysis of the constitution and government of the United States. It is clear, convincing, absolutely incontrovertible. I am not surprised that President Lord of Dartmouth College after reading these two dissertations should have been so overpowered by the irresistible force of the logic as to yield in absolute surrender all his previous convictions, one of the profoundest thinkers of his time and standing at the head of New England Congregationalism he gave up his position to his convictions for he was forced to follow Mr Calhoun's doctrines to their natural sequence. To me it was delightful reading. I am going on with the perusal of the succeeding volumes underlining and annotating as I read. These writings must not be permitted to slumber on the shelves unnoticed and unread. No statesman ever exerted the influence that Mr Calhoun did in shaping the destinies of this country. Nor has that influence ceased. In the social and political chaos toward which we are rapidly tending there will be found in the great system of truths formulated by Mr Calhoun the latest and highest evolution of the human mind.



in developing government. He leaped into the arena  
along with such men as Webster, Clay, Sumner, and Chases  
and unmatched at the beginning he maintained his  
superiority to the end of his great and splendid  
career.

I have in connection with the work <sup>just</sup> read  
through Thucydides, who has given us the clearest insight  
into the politics of Greece at the time when the  
most perfect democracy ever established was undergoing  
its last phase. It will not be necessary to go through  
much preliminary reading. Mr Calhoun's writings must  
be read and kept at hand till absorbed with  
his spirit the man himself should be engaged in  
writing his own life. I shall write to him and urge  
him to get on from Virginia as soon as possible  
the manuscript in Mr Hunter's possession.

It is very pleasing to think that my letters afford  
Mr Briggs and Essie any gratification. Give my  
kindest regards to them.

Sincerely & truly yours  
Wm. P. Starke